

# TERRITORIAL COINS

(LOTS 1252-1257, 1262 )

The California Gold Rush was not the only time that our country caught 'gold fever,' nor was it the first. Decades earlier, deposits of gold had been found in the eastern United States, specifically, in pockets of Northern Georgia and the Carolinas.

In the mid-nineteenth century, there arose a need for honest coiners who could process gold nugget and dust into usable coinage regionally. These territorial gold coins were recognized by local populations and facilitated trade.

The Bechtler family emigrated from Baden (Germany) and settled in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. They were skilled gunsmiths, watchmakers and metallurgists. The Bechtler name very soon became synonymous with integrity and accuracy in assaying gold. Even decades after production ceased, southerners were known to specify a preference for payment 'in Bechtler Gold only.' Bidders will have the chance at two coins from this early eastern mint.

Farther west, a company founded by bankers Austin and Milton Clark, in association with Emanuel Gruber, began the task of turning virgin 'Pikes Peak' gold dust into a functioning coinage. Native Colorado gold had been discovered in 1858 and much like happened earlier in Carolina and California, miners would show up seeking fortunes - willing to risk their lives in hopes of finding gold. Clark-Gruber's firm laid the framework for what would later become the Denver branch of the U.S. Mint.

In San Francisco, California, a former clockmaker in New York named Augustus Humbert was appointed US Assayer for the newly established United States Assay Office. The office under Moffat & Co. was to issue gold coins in denominations of ranging from \$50 to \$10,000 beginning in 1851. By the end of the year, Moffat & Co. requested permission to issue coins of denominations less than \$50. At first turned down, the office issued coins independent of a government contract and finally did receive official permission in January 1852. It is likely that the \$10 gold coin offered here was issued in January 1852. Soon afterwards, Moffat & Co. came to an end when John Moffat sold out his interest to another company.

We feel that this assemblage of historically relevant numismatic items represents a unique opportunity. These scarce coins offer the new owner a glimpse into the lives of the pioneers, miners and speculators.

Brunk Auctions would like to thank Greg Capps at Wright's Coin Shop for his assistance with the territorial coins.



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**1252**  
**Christopher Bechtler \$2-1/2 Quarter Eagle**  
North Carolina, (1831-1834), K-11, Uneven 22, 64 Grain/22 Carat, PCGS Cert# 34382503  
Provenance: Private Collection, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Estimate: \$12,000 - \$15,000



**1253**  
**Christopher Bechtler \$1 Gold Coin**  
North Carolina, 1834-1837, 28 Grains, High RE, PCGS, K-2, PCGS# 34382504  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000



**1254**  
**1861 \$10 Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin**, Colorado, 1861, MS61, AU53, PCGS# 34382505  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000



**1255**  
**\$5 Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin**  
Colorado, 1861, AU55, PCGS Cert# 34382508  
Provenance: Private Collection, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Estimate: \$6,000 - \$9,000



**1256**  
**1861 \$2-1/2 Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin**  
Colorado, 1861, MS62, AU 55, PCGS# 34382509  
Provenance: Private Collection, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Estimate: \$6,000 - \$9,000



**1257**  
**1861 \$20 Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin**, Colorado, 1861, graded by Kagin's in 1981 as EF40  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$2,000 - \$4,000



**1258**  
**Three Gold American Fifty Dollar Proof Coins**, American, all 1986, proof coins encased in velvet book, three American Eagle coins, 1.091 Troy Ounce each  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000



**1259**  
**Six Troy Ounces of Gold Bullion Coins**  
American, 20th century, all commemorative coins, Robert Frost; Grant Wood; Helen Hayes; with others, 1980-1984  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000



**1260**  
**Four Troy Ounces of Gold Bullion Coins**  
American, two Mark Twain coins, 1981; One Troy Ounce each; two Grant Wood coins, 1980, One Troy Ounce each  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$2,500 - \$3,500



**1261**  
**Six Troy Ounces of Gold Bullion Coins**  
American, 20th century, all commemorative, three Mark Twain coins; three Willa Cather coins, with others, 1980-1984  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$2,500 - \$3,500



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**1262**  
**1852/1 \$10 Augustus Humbert Gold Coin**  
California, 1851-1852, AU 55, PDGS# 34382506, 1851 dated dye overdated to 1852  
Provenance: Private Collection, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Estimate: \$12,000 - \$15,000



**1263**  
**Nine U.S. Commemorative Coins/Gold & Silver**, two five dollars gold coins, 0.48 troy ounces; with six silver dollars, 6 troy ounces silver; with other  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$400 - \$600



**1264**  
**Aprox. 76 Troy Ounces of Silver Coins**  
American, 39 Morgan dollars, 1883; eight Morgan dollars, 1886-1921; three Peace dollars, 1923-1928, with others  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500



**1265**  
**Aprox. 114 Troy Ounces Silver Dimes and Quarters**, quarters dating from 1925-1964; Mercury head dimes, 1919-1964  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500



**1266**  
**Aprox. 171 Troy Ounces Morgan Silver Dollars**, American, all dated 1884, mint mark "O", 1-1/2 in.  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,000



**1267**  
**Sons of the American Revolution Medal**  
American, 20th century, silver enamel with gilding, "Libertas Et Patria", "Sons of the American Revolution", 3-1/2 in.  
Provenance: Private Collection, VA  
Estimate: \$100 - \$300



**1268**  
**Five 1 Ounce Krugerrands**  
South African, all dated 1978, each marked 1 OZ Fine Gold, 1-1/2 in.  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$4,000 - \$6,000



**1269**  
**Five 1 Ounce Krugerrands**  
South African, all dated 1979, each marked 1 OZ Fine Gold, 1-1/2 in.  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$4,000 - \$6,000



**1270**  
**Five 1 Ounce Krugerrands**  
South African, all dated 1979, each marked 1 OZ Fine Gold, 1-1/2 in.  
Provenance: Private Collection, NC  
Estimate: \$4,000 - \$6,000